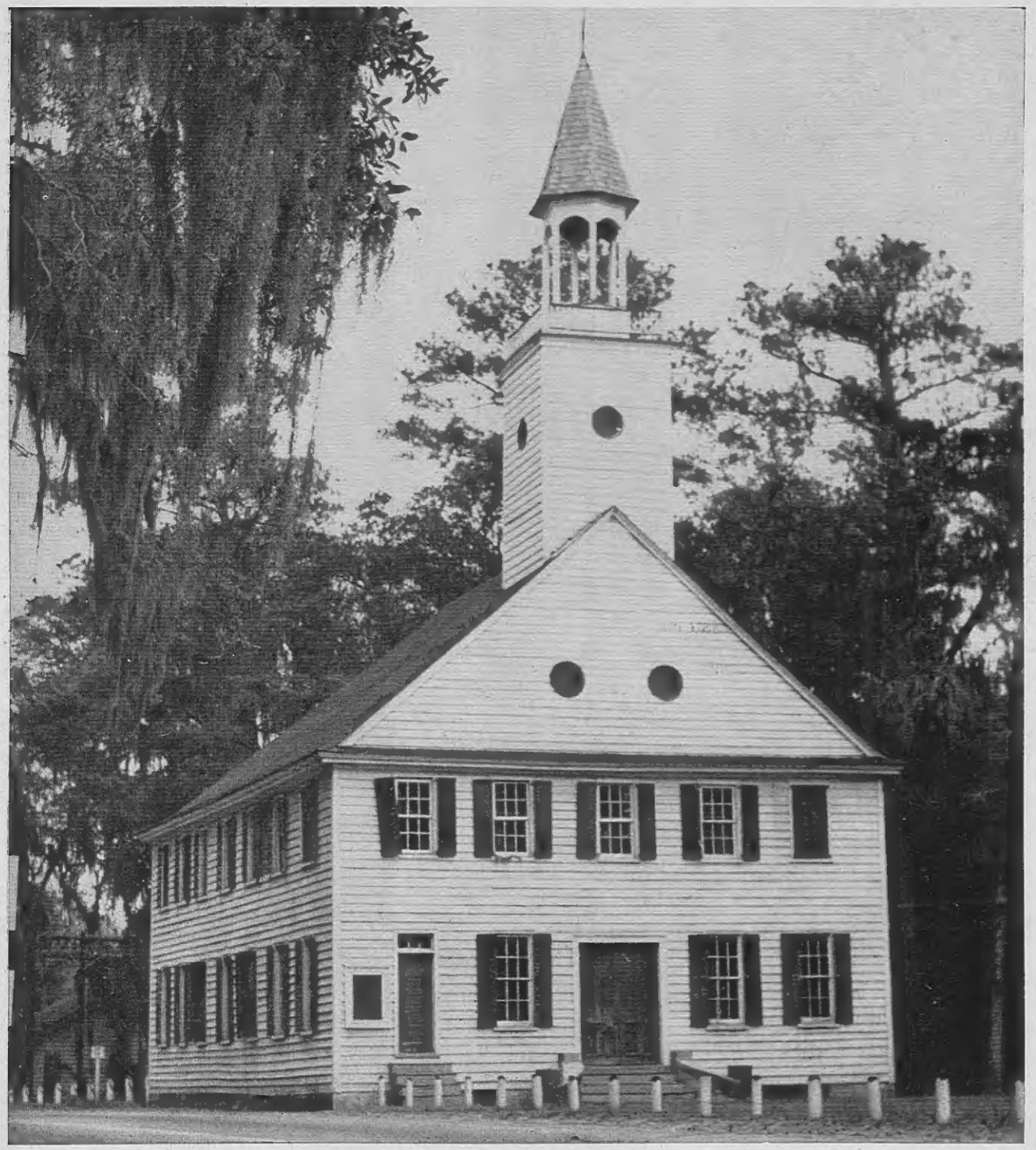
The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 2 - Number 6 MARCH, 1954



The Midway Congregational Church in Georgia

1754 - 1954

MIDWAY CHURCH BI-CENTENNIAL

The bi-centennial celebration of the Midway Colonists will be observed on April 21, 1954, at the historic old Midway Congregational Church, on U.S. highway 17 where it crosses Georgia highway 38.

Senator Richard B. Russell, a descendant of the Midway settlers, will be the principal speaker and a pageant is being written on the colorful history of the church to be presented at that time.

Midway Congregational Church can claim to be one of the most remarkable churches in the history of Congregationalism. It produced more than one hundred ministers, many of whom have been foreign missionaries; Midway was the home of two Revolutionary heroes, Gen. Daniel Stewart and Gen. James Screven; two of the three Georgia signers of the Declaration of Independence, Dr. Lyman Hall and Button Gwinnett, and where the first minister to China, John E. Ward, was born; the home of the ancestors of Theodore Roosevelt; of the family of the first Mrs. Woodrow Wilson; Rev. Abiel Holmes, the father of Oliver Wendell Holmes, was pastor of Midway Church; the home of the famous scientists, John and Joseph LeConte, the former being called "the father of the University of California; Francis R. Goulding, author of "The Young Marooners," lived at Midway; the birthplace of Maria McIntosh, the author; the site of the LeConte botanical gardens; four Georgia governors, and numerous United States senators and congressmen came from Midway; six Georgia counties are named for Midway men. Dr. James Stacey, a son of Midway, wrote "The History of Midway Church."

Present members of the Midway Church and Society are descendants of the original Georgia Colonists. They were organized in 1940 to collect historical records and to promote the Midway Museum for the housing of historic documents and records.

The McIntosh Midway Church of the Convention of the South, is a direct off-shoot from the Midway Church. The descendents of the slaves, who formerly worshipped in the balcony of the Midway Church, organized the McIntosh Midway Church in 1879.

With the burning of the parsonage the last year of the Civil War, Midway Church as an organization ceased to exist. It was never formally disbanded. Descendents of the former members have kept the building in repair as an historical landmark, and the Midway Society meets each Confederate Memorial Day for a service.

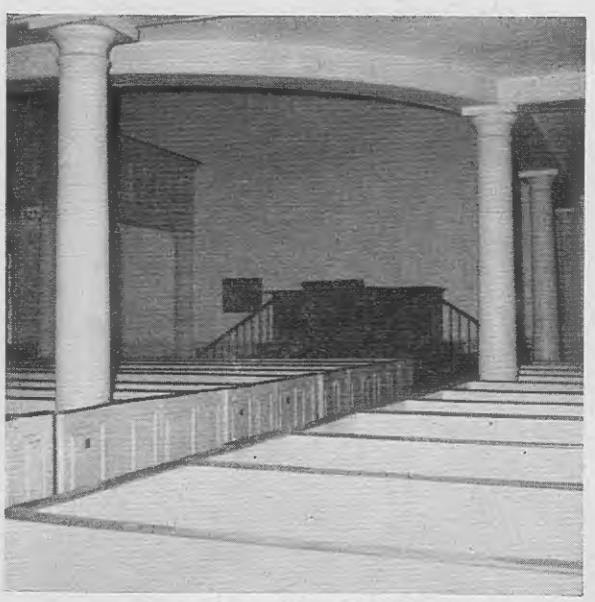
The Executive Committee of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches has appointed a committee to represent the denomination in plans to make an historic shrine of the old church. Committee members are: The Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, Dr. Thomas Anderson, and Dr. Wm. N. Tuttle, Superintendent of the Florida Conference.

The proposed museum, to cost $50,000 would house the historical relics of the section. The original cost of the acreage, on which the Museum will be built, was $16,000 and payments were completed on it in 1953. The three groups—the Midway Museum, the Midway Church and Society. and the Congregational Christian Church Committee from the General Council, are working on plans to raise the necessary funds. Approximately $3,500 has already been raised.

Georgia ministers and Congregational Christians who would like to attend this bi-centennial celebration are urged to do so, for it will be most interesting and informative on the early history of Congregationalism in the South.

ADVANCE MAGAZINE will carry a story and pictures on the Midway Church early in April, giving more details of the history of the church. This article was written by Superintendent Erston M. Butterfield.

The cemetery of Midway Church contains the graves of more famous people than any other cemetery its size in the Country.



Interior view of the Midway Church, where the Union Cavalry stabled its horses during the Sherman's march to the sea.

Left to right: Mrs. Arnold Slater, Rev. C. Carl Dollar, Mrs. Ed. Albright, Miss Ione Catton, Rev. Carolyn Welch, and Rev. Joe A. French. (Photographer, Supt. Erston M. Butterfield.)

Convention Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education Makes Plans

For the purpose of outlining a program of Missionary Education, Convention-wide, the members of the Convention Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education met with Miss Ione Catton, Program Secretary of the Missions Council, on Feb. 3 in Atlanta.

Goal of this committee is to set up a Missionary Education Committee (or at least a chairman) in every local church within the next year. Miss Catton felt that the ideal committee, should be composed of a man as chairman, a woman as co-chairman, and a young person.

Miss Catton said that the goal of the local church committee should be to see that every group of the church (laymen, women, young people, trustees, deacons, teaching staff, choir) knows the basic objective of the church program and that all goals for the year are laid in the gospel and the means of spreading it. Anything that one group does should be made known to the whole membership, as something the CHURCH has done, **through** the women's fellowship, the church school, the laymen, etc.

The responsibility of the Convention committee will be to show the church the means by which this goal can be reached—materials and activities, and to create an informed church membership.

A skit on the missionary education committee of the local church in action will be prepared and directed by the Rev. Carolyn Welch, to be given at the fall association and conference meetings.

Materials are available from the Convention office for the local church committees who are ready to begin work: 1) The 12-Point Standard, 2) the Mission Study Course, 3) Christian Standard of Giving. There are also leaflets on the work of the denomination—the American Board, the Home Board, Relief & Reconstruction, and the Council for Social Action. These leaflets tell in detail how your mission dollars are spent and what they accomplish.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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Vol. 2 MARCH 15, 1954 No. 6

LENT, AN OPPORTUNITY

Let us welcome Lent, and use it. Rightly used, this season means much for our lives. In the first place, the withdrawal from worldly pleasures, at least in some degree, gives opportunity for attention to nobler things, like prayer, the best reading, cooperation in some form in the work the church is seeking to do for mankind.

We purposely make this suggestion of nobler pursuits very general, because Lent should be real to everybody. And people, differently constituted, variously situated, have widely varying spiritual needs. But all of us will be better for more concentration upon prayer, for more reading of literature of an abiding quality, for unselfish work for man in the spirit of Christ, whether our efforts be strictly missionary, or social, or educational.

Again, there are sins to be repented of. Sins in our individual lives, first of all. Lent is an opportunity to face those sins, and to try with God's help to conquer them. Take time to discover sins, not in other people, but in ourselves. Measuring our lives by God's law and Christ's example, let us see where we have fallen short, in respect to truth in word and act, in respect to kindness to others, or calmness of spirit, or purity in thought as well as deed, or control of our tongues as well as our appetites, or humility.

And when definite sins are discovered, make them the subject of definite repentance. Don't be morbid about them. Don't be impatient if you don't win the battle at once. Repentance means more than sentimental sorrow. It means change of mind, steady bracing of the will toward amendment. And this is not the work of one day. That is why we have forty days in Lent.

Let us seize the great opportunity of Lent this year. Strengthen your characters by discipline. Know Christ better. Read His words and the story of His deeds, His humiliation, His bravery, His sacrifice. Catch something of His vision, His purpose for you, for the church, for the world.

Then Lent will prove to be a precious time, a real opportunity. And Easter will mark a genuine victory of faith.

The spiritual processes of Lent are like the generative processes of the natural world. The seed of high thought and devotional application sown in the heart must at last bloom into a fruitage of glorified personality and joy.

Lent says to us: "Be still and know that I am God."

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Be Their Milkman

A good Lenten project for junior highs is this project sponsored by Church World Service. More than 12,500 pounds of government surplus powdered skim milk has been given to Church World Service. We must pay the freight to deliver it.

60c will deliver a cup a day for a year.

$6 will deliver a cup a day for a year to ten people.

We are told that more refugees die from malnutrition than from starvation. Powdered skim milk goes further, dollar for dollar, than anything else to build resistance against deficiency diseases. Children, mothers, babies, and invalids in Europe and Asia are waiting for it. Be Their Milkman!

Now, we who are accustomed to whole milk would not think powdered skim milk very good to drink. However, in places where people do not have milk at all, and where they have no ice and no refrigerators as we do, powdered milk is more practical and they really need it.

A free poster, leaflets describing the project, and gummed milk-bottle labels may be had upon request. Write to Rev. Armstrong Hunter, 14 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass. Send your money to the Convention office marked "Be Their Milkman" and we will forward it to the Relief and Reconstruction Program.

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Youth Fellowship Programs No. 5

God in Our Lives, like the previous Youth Fellowship Booklets, contains fifteen programs for young people's meetings and provides material for twenty sessions. It includes materials and suggestions for discussion, worship and activities which will serve as a guide in making meetings interesting and helpful.

Contents: 1) Retreat—to Go Forward, 2) Labels and Libel, 3) Who's Successful?, 4) How Can We Know What God Expects?, 5) What causes Crime?, 6)Saint or Sinner?, 7) Can You Take It, 8) Freedom and Responsibility, 9) Science and Genesis 1, 10) What's Wrong with the World?, 11 I Didn't Think!, 12 Loyalty—What Is It?, 13) Where Would You Look?, 14) Christmas—Holiday or Holy Day?, 15) We Press Forward.

The author is Frances W. Eastman, editor of CHILDREN'S RELIGION; the book has 84 pages and is priced at $1.00.

Other Youth Fellowship Programs, at $1.00 each are: 1) **Everyday Christians**, by Kirk M. Dewey; 2) **Faith in Action** by Theodore C. Schoonmaker; 3) **Living our Religion** by Oswell R. Warford; 4) **Crossroad Decisions** by Henry R. Rust; and 5) **God in Our Lives** by Frances Eastman.

For Junior Hi, get the "Junior Hi Kit No. 10" ($2.50 from Pilgrim Press) with programs, party plans, songs, and projects. About 200 pages.

— SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE —

A Call to Attention and Action

The meeting of the Administration Committee of the Southeast Region, which was held at Lake Byrd Lodge, Avon Park, Florida this past week, gave us an opportunity to review the past and plan for the future, especially in terms of church extension and Convention Program.

Your representatives at this important session were: Arnold Slater, Moderator; Mrs. Lowell Smoot, Convention Chairman of the Women's Fellowship; John Pickens, Jr., Chairman of the Committee on Christian Education and Youth Work; Betty Slater, representing Pilgrim Fellowship; Clyde Flannery, President of Southern Union College; and C. Carl Dollar, Director of the C.R.E.S.

The Florida Conference, Southern Convention, and the Convention of the South were requested to send similar delegations. For two days, under the leadership of Dr. Stanley U. North, General Secretary of the Division of Church Extension and Evangelism; and Dr. Wesley A. Hotchkiss, Director of Field Research; we unitedly faced our common problems and opportunities for advancing the Congregational Christian work throughout the South. From our discussions, it was evident that there are two very important phases of our program that demand immediate attention and action:

I. Successful Completion of the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign

We in the Southeast Convention (thanks to the fine leadership of Lowell Smoot and his hardworking committee and the excellent response on the part of most of our churches) have done a good job—but we have not as yet done our fair share.

The successful completion of this campaign is a divine obligation. It is our way, as individuals and churches, of expressing gratitude for the church builders of the past, for those who through sacrificing devotion preserved our heritage of the free, liberal, democratic fellowship which is the church; and our way, too, of proving our concern for the ongoing Gospel and insuring adequate church buildings and facilities for our children, our children's children, and for all generations to come.

Our fair share of the total campaign for $4,500,000 is $30,000. We still have nearly $5,000 to go! So what do we do now?

1. Seeing to it that churches which have voted their goal but have not as yet sent in their **Declarations of Purpose** do so at once. If the proper blanks have been lost, new ones may be secured from the office. If churches in this category were to send in their Declarations we would be only about $4,200 short of our Convention Goal. Is your church one of these?

2. Getting churches which have not as yet accepted a goal to call a congregational meeting to hear the story and vote to share in the campaign. Lowell Smoot and his committee stand ready to give every assistance to such churches. Unfortunately, there are many in this category. Is your church one of these?

3. Urging churches which did not accept their full goal to reconsider their action in the light of present needs and situations. Could your church accept its full goal if given an extra year in which to raise it? Requests from such churches will be welcomed. Only as each church does its fair share can we succeed as a fellowship. Is your church one of these?

We are so close to success, won't each and every one of you give your immediate attention and action to this great effort. (Incidentally, we of the Convention, through loans to our churches within the past 12 months, have benefitted from this fund in the amount of $39,000. We dare not fail a fellowship which has so expressed its interest and confidence in our future!)

II. Convocation and Ministers' School

Last month you read about the wonderful plans of the Convention Committee on the Ministry and Southern Union College to initiate a Ministers' Convocation and Training Program. The plans have now received National recognition and financial support.

Soon, all ministers and church clerks will be receiving detailed information about this great forward step in the development of ministerial fellowship and training. Long experience has taught us that no church can go forward without a trained, energetic, informed, inspired minister. This total program will bring to all of our ministers a greater devotion, a deeper consecration, a wider vision, and better acquaintance with the techniques and methods of churchmanship. If only every minister could attend this first session at Southern Union College May 3-7! Some ministers don't like to ask for time away from their parishes, and others may be unable to attend unless they receive some extra financial help for the trip. So won't you, the next time you see your minister, tell him you want him to go and will ask the church to send him with their blessing and support! It will be one of the best investments your pastor and church has ever made.

Well, that's all for this month, but won't you please get busy on each of these important matters—for the good of our churches and God's Kingdom?

—Erston M. Butterfield

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CONVENTION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 28 - One Great Hour of Sharing
April 11 - Palm Sunday. Holy Week
April 16 - Good Friday
April 18 - Easter Sunday
April 26 - Midway Bi-centennial Celebration
May 15 & 16 - Southeast Convention Meeting; Lanett Church, Lanett, Ala.

Church Builders Club to Launch All-Out Campaign

At their meeting in Douglas, Ga., on Feb. 16, the Gideon Club of Church Builders trustees made plans for a series of rallies throughout the Convention.

The object of the rallies is to acquaint the ministers and churches with the program of the club and to enlist members. Dates have been set for some of the meetings; dates for others will depend on the local committees.

March 7 - meeting at Enigma Christian Church. Local committee: Rev. W. C. Carpenter, Rev. R. H. Abbott, Mrs. C. E. Martin, Mrs. H. Y. Sears.

March 28 - Columbus, Ga. Local Committee: Rev. S. M. Penn, D. S. Hogg, C. H. Morris, Rev. A. Goff Bedford, Rev. W. S. Wood.

East Alabama - Local Committee: James Dollar, Herman Cook, Rev. C. H. Morris, Mrs. Jimmie French, Rev. Donald J. Ross.

North Georgia - Local Committee: Fred Haley, Rev. J. T. McAdams, Rev. Henry Weaver, Richard Drake, Dr. Thomas Anderson.

Kentucky-Tennessee - Rev. W. C. Carpenter, Lester Shaw, J. T. Gill, Rev. E. M. Butterfield.

Central Alabama - Rev. Herbert Long.

The secretary reported that there are now 318 members with $1,535 paid in pledges.

Trustees present were: Officers - Lester Shaw, Rev. W. C. Carpenter, Rev. Frank Barner, Rev. Erston M. Butterfield, D. S. Hogg, Johnnie Dees, G. E. Turner and Rev. Herbert Long. Visitors and interested members who helped make the meeting a success were: Rev. S. M. Penn, Leon Elder, Comer Ragsdale, Rev. John E. Pickens, Jr., and Rev. Earl Hand.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Left to right, standing: Rev. F. C. Barner, J. Dees, Rev. S. M. Penn, D. S. Hogg, Rev. Herbert Long. Seated: Lester Shaw, Rev. W. C. Carpenter, and Rev. Erston M. Butterfield.

Convention Communion Service

Some time ago the Southeast Convention was given a complete Communion Service, with the hope that it would be useful to some church in this area.

The Board of Directors, in considering this matter, decided that the best way to use it would be to "lend" it to a new church, with the understanding that when the church become able it would purchase its own communion service, and the Convention service would be passed along to another new and struggling church. It was also suggested that each church using the service would have its name engraved on the bottom of the serving tray.

The first church to have the use of the service is the First Congregational Christian Church of Tifton, Ga. A letter expressing the appreciation of the church has been received, and since the Communion Service belongs to the entire Convention, the letter is printed here:

"We are most happy to accept the service on the terms suggested by you, and feel that it will bring about a closer bond of fellowship among the new churches of the Southeast.

"Already it has added much dignity and reverence to the ordinance of our Lord's Supper; and again, in behalf of the church, let me say 'Thank you most sincerely'."

—Mrs. J. T. Gill, Clerk

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Summer Camps Just Around The Corner

The next issue of the **Southeast News** will give a complete listing of all the Summer Camps and Conferences to be held in the Southeast Convention. Summer is almost here, and it's not too soon to begin making your plans to attend the one in your area.

Every year our Camping Program gets better and every year more young people and families

(Please turn to page 12)

PLANNING COMMITTEE

SSS–SHEPHERD, SMOOT SPECIAL

By Mary Margaret Smoot

At last the long-awaited day arrived—Jan. 20, 1954—the day to depart for Cleveland for the Mid-Winter Presidents' meeting. Amid much scurrying and help from the husband, bags were packed, train snack provided, instructions given to husband on food provision (which, incidentally, were ignored as neighbors provided much more tempting fare!)—all done just in time to board the "Man O' War" for Atlanta.

After arriving in Chipley, Ga., and joining Jean Shepherd, things began to take on a brighter hue as we anticipated what would happen in Cleveland.

In Atlanta we got settled on the train for a long night's ride, and at the last minute decided to take a pullman (a 35c pillow!) By eight o'clock the next morning, we were thankful that we did, but it wasn't until we had literally run a quarter of a mile to "catch" the Cincinnati train that the kinks left our backs and legs. (The conductor wired ahead to have the Cleveland train wait for passengers, since our train was late getting into Cincinnati.)

Up to the time of arrival in Cleveland, we had felt rather important going to the Presidents' meeting, but as soon as we came into the massive Cleveland Terminal Station, we felt like two minnows in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean! Shortly, however, we were comfortably settled in the hotel, and after a short rest and a good supper, we were ready to "do the town."

Inquiring from the bell-hop the distance to a certain theater, we were assured it was three blocks from the hotel. When our hands got cold we became skeptical, when our ears were almost frozen we were seriously dubious, but when our feet became numb we were convinced without reservation that everything in Cleveland was bigger than in Georgia and Alabama, including the distance of a block!

Friday morning dawned early (can't say bright, because the sun was bashful all week long—neither did we enjoy snow, just drizzling rain) and work began. Jean Shepherd met with the Executice Committee of the National Women's Fellowship and they worked all day and evening on programs, nominations, and the rephrasing of a constitution. I sat in on two meetings of the Christian Education Committee.

Meanwhile, the time whizzed by so speedily, with the regular sessions of the Women's Fellowship in addition to things "extra-curricular" (like the walk in the rain to have Supt. Butterfield treat us to donuts and coffee), that it was Tuesday and time for us to return home.

What had been the most memorable occasion? Was it the installation of Mrs. Mary Ann Williams of Florida as the first President of the International Council of Congregational Christian Churches; the Board of Home Missions luncheon, at which time we learned that declarations of purpose for 90% of the 4½ million dollars of the Church Building Loan Fund had been subscribed; the sweet singing of the children's choir at Pilgrim Church, where the Women's Fellowship worshipped on Sunday? . . . or should preference be given to the presentation of new materials and the theme, "Out of the Heart of the Gospel"; the warm fellowship of meeting old friends (Marguerits Davison, Pattie Lee Coghill, Bill Scott, Alan Jones, Christine Skelton) and the making of countless new ones (al lthe State Presidents and many of the National Staff)? Yes, as you may imagine, it would be impossible to single out any one highlight—it takes the aggregate of weariness, participation and inspiration to make Mid-Winter an unforgettable experience.

* This was to be a SSSS (Shepherd, Slater, Smoot Special, but Mrs. Slater was unable to attend the meeting because of the illness of her husband.

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Women's Fellowship Spring Rallies

Mrs. Keith Elliott, past state president of Michigan, will be the guest speaker and resource leader for the Alabama, West Florida and Georgia rallies this spring.

"The challenge to put legs on ideas" is issued by Mrs. Elliott. "It is much easier for us to plan a program and pass a resolution than it is to determine the bases of inequalities in our Christian democracy. It is more comfortable to send a box of used clothing to one of our schools . . . than to make opportunities for the graduates of those schools to use their education."

Mrs. Elliott's itinerary will be:
Central Georgia Rally—March 16
South Georgia Rally—March 18
South Alabama Rally, Andalusia Antioch,—March 20
East Alabama, LaFayette Pleasant Grove—March 22
Central Alabama, Thorsby—March 23
North Alabama, Cullman E & R—March 25

Please support the meeting in your area by your presence. A good program is being prepared on the theme "Rejoicing in Our Tasks." Supt. Butterfield will be attending the rallies on March 16, 18, 23 and 25.

Please remember to bring your **Woman's Gift** money, which is an over and above offering that helps construct churches in new and inadequately churched American communities, aids the Family Life Commission, sustains in part the Legislative Committee of our Council for Social Action, aids teachers in mission schools and makes possible a Friendly Relations Committee for Foreign Students that come to the U.S. for education. The Woman's Gift "is the gospel in deed and word."

Bring also your gift of money for Southern Union College to complete the Chapel Project; your State Expense money @ 50c per member; the number of Yearbooks you will need, and the number of packets your society will want in July.

Church News . . . .

The **Lanett Church** was happy to welcome Miss Ione Catton, Program Secretary for the Missions Council, on the evenings of Feb. 12 and 13. Her delightful stories and the presentation of Our Christian World Mission work around the world were most informative and inspirational.

On the afternoon and evening of Feb. 10, representatives from our church attended the Mission Institute at Langdale Church. These were wonderful classes with a most bountiful evening meal served by the church. Our only regret is that she could not be with us longer and that more of our people did not hear her. Our church is in process of electing its Christian World Missions Committee as a result of her coming.

Our Adult P. F. group enjoyed a joint meeting with the young adults of the Disciples of Christ and Methodist churches Jan. 31. This meeting was held after the Worship Service at the Disciples Church for a period of fellowship and refreshments. Such meetings are regular events on Fifth Sunday evenings. The church which supplies the speaker for the evening worship service also is responsible for the devotional. The host church has charge of recreation and refreshments. These gatherings are a great inspiration to our people.

On Feb. 14 our church choir, Mrs. Joe French and Mrs. Gladys Carlisle were invited to the Ebenezer Baptist Church for a Race Relations service. Mrs. Carlisle had our devotional and Mrs. French was the main speaker for the afternoon, and a very fine job she did! Our choir rendered three numbers. To close the afternoon of worship, the Negro Choir and ours joined the Congregation in singing, "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian." We had a number of our church people in the congregation also. The solo part in the closing spiritual was carried by Hattie Turner and was enough to thrill the soul of any man. This was the first experience in a Negro service for many of us, but one which we will never forget. After the benediction we were invited to a most delectable meal in the dining room.

To any who might have a frown on your face (but we hope not!) we might pass along a statement from a talk by one of the Negro women. We quote, "I do not know why God made the different colored races. I do not know why He made the different colored flowers, but He had a purpose. This is all a part of His pattern. But I do know that when a man is cut, red blood flows from his veins, all alike, whatever his color or race may be."

This reporter could not help but marvel at the reverence these Negroes had in their sanctuary; the complete absorption they seemed to have which gave an expression to their facts of utmost serenity and joy; and, lastly, that their singing came from the very bottom of their souls. We were made to wonder why we don't **enjoy** our religion so much that we lose ourselves to the extent that it shines on our faces and when we sing that it comes joyously from the bottom of our hearts.

Have we lost something along the way?

—Mrs. A. D. Harry, reporter

The Junior Pilgrim Fellowship of the **United** Church, Phenix City, Ala., was given a Western Valentine Party by their Director, Mrs. Monroe Harrison, on February 11th. There were 24 cowboys and cowgirls present. They sang western songs, exchanged valentines, played games and were served cookies and drinks. Sandra Autry was elected Valentine Queen. She and Ronnie Weaver received mechanical pencils as award gifts. This group, although very young, has taken as their project this year the dressing of small dolls to give to underprivileged children for next Christmas. Also they are making some wooden toys. The children buy a doll when possible and the material, such as knitting yarn and needles, is bought through funds from the treasury. They now have twelve dolls to be dressed and one doll completely dressed. The children will work on these during their meetings and by Christmas they should have enough dressed to make many children happy.

—Paralee Hill, reporter

The **Hunt Memorial Church** has recently organized a Training Union, meeting each Sunday evening at six o'clock. Officers have been elected: President, Ben Corley; Vice-president, C. Alfrod; Secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Reuben Allen. The program chairman is to hold office for three months, and the first ones are Claudis Pemberton and Mrs. B. Corley.

The Laymen's Fellowship has taken on the project of beautifying the church grounds, and are beginning with a rose garden.

The church had eight representatives to attend the Mission Institute at Mt. Olive Church: the Rev. and Mrs. M. O. Worley, Mr. and Mrs. Reboun Allen; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Corley, E. E. Ingram, and Mrs. Claude Pemberton.

One of the Friendly Service activities during January was a Sunshine Shower for one of our church members, Mrs. L. B. Walters.

—Mrs. James Cumbee, reporter

The **First Church** of Andalusia, Ala., seems to be on the move. The Rev. Edw. B. Knight and his family have been heartily welcomed in the church and well received in the community.

The Sunday School attendance has increased about 25% and the worship service even more. The young people are very active and well planned programs are carried out.

January 31st was a banner day as ten new members were added to our roll at the morning service. We feel that the new year is off to a good start With our faith put into action and by God's help we will continue to spread the gospel.

The WMS of the church welcomes Mrs. Edward Knight as a new member. We have purchased two pulpit chairs with help from other organizations of the church. We sponsored a "bake sale" and used the proceeds for the chairs. The members are very active and we are hoping to meet every goal this year.

Mrs. Florine Wallace is our new President; Mrs.

Bernice Carter, Secretary; and Mrs. Riley Eubanks is Friendly Service Chairman. With them as our leaders, we are sure of a busy year.

We have two meetings each month and all are well attended. One meeting is a planned program and the other a business meeting. We are using the program packet and find it very interesting. You will be hearing more about what we are doing!

—Mrs. Lula B. Trawick, reporter

For the **Langdale Church** the months of February and January have shown the best attendance in the last three-year period of the church, with eight consecutive Sunday morning congregations of more than 150. This has broken all records since we have been keeping an accurate count of congregations. We have had an average of 161 in January and 183 in February. This is more than 50 per Sunday over last year.

The Sunday School also has had the best attendance since 1948 and 1949. The average attendance for January was 148 and for February 185—an average gain over last year of nearly seventy. These increases do not so much represent newcomers or visitors as they do old members becoming more loyal.

The church activities calendar shows special events and meetings each day or evening during March save five! And this calendar does not include the athletic program, a special project of the pastor, the Rev. Goff Bedford, who believes strongly in recreational programs for the church. Langdale has three softball teams for boys and men and one for women.

In January the trustees of **Oak Grove Church,** Chipley, Ga., decided to ask the church to consider the possibility of cultivating ten acres of corn as a Lord's Acre project. Everyone was pleased when this plan met with whole-hearted approval at the time it was presented, and plans were made to proceed with the undertaking.

One man immediately agreed to make ten acres of land available, rent-free; two others promised the use of tractors, plows, fertilizer distributors, etc., as their share. Then came the problem of securing the seed corn and the fertilizer. Practically all of this was pledged at the very first meeting when it was presented. A number of persons pledged to furnish fertilizer for one acre.

Preparation of the soil will begin immediately, and we are in high hopes that this will prove to be a valuable experience, and that some profit for the church will result from it.

Not to be outdone by the adults, the Junior Pilgrim Fellowship developed its own interpretation and decided to ask the women of the church and community to donate Sunday eggs to the cause. Now, on each Monday, you will find the Juniors busy in the community collecting and selling eggs.

Prior to this inauguration of the Lord's Acre Project, a number of the men of the church had formed a Calf Club, with each pledging to raise a calf to good markefable age, or give the equivalent in money. Plans are underway to keep a scrapbook, including pictures and details in regard to these different phases of the Lord's Acre program.

—Margie McGuire, Reporter

The Junior Pilgrim Fellowship of the **Vanceville Church** near Tifton, Ga., is busy again after a period during December when all children their age were thinking of Christmas.

In February they had a missionary program, "Forward with Christ Into All the World" which is prepared especially for Juniors. It was a rainy night and all did not attend, so the extra refreshments were given to an invalid nearby.

The children brought new and used clothing for a needy family outside the community.

On February 13 the Juniors had a Valentine Party at the Educational Building. One of the Youth Fellowship older girls helped serve and entertain the Juniors. When refreshments were served, Matthew 25:26 was read and the children were asked if they would like to share their cookies with one who is in prison. A plate was passed and each child gave some. The cookies were sent to a young man in the penitentiary whom none of us has ever seen.

Our next project is collecting books and magazines to send to Tifton for the prisoners. The Warden's wife approves of the project and will deliver the magazines.

—Mrs. Rosie V. Hand

On Jan. 28 the congregation of the **Evarts** Church gave the Rev. Collie Seymour and his family a surprise grocery pounding at the parsonage. The pastor was also given a birthday greeting containing a cash gift for his birthday on Feb. 1. Refreshments were served by the ladies of the church.

An Installation Service for the new officers of the church, held Feb. 7, was most impressive and inspiring.

There has been a gradual increase in church attendance and also in the other organizations of the church since Mr. Seymour arrived late in November 1953.

The Rev. Seymour and eleven members of the church attended the Mission Institute at Corbin, Ky., on Feb. 1, which was conducted by Miss Ione Catton, assisted by the Rev. Carl Dollar. Those attending reported the meeting was most instructive and inspirational, and they learned much about the mission work of the Congregational Christian Church at home and abroad, its power for peace and unity in our war-torn world. We hope Miss Catton will be able to visit the Evarts Church in the future.

The Corbin Church has undergone a transformation since we last visited them. The new electric organ is a wonderful addition. We were given a warm welcome and learned that the ladies of the church are excellent cooks—the fod was delicious and beautifully served.

Mrs. J. H. Turner, treasurer of the cooking group fund money made by the women of the church, turned in to the general fund of the church $400 the last of January. It was voted to use this money to paint the interior of the church. This job was completed in time for services on Feb. 7th.

The Lois Vincent Society of the Evarts Church, mostly business and professional women, are most grateful for a cash gift for their treasury from

Mrs. George Vincent, for whom their society is named. Dr. Vincent is now retired and at this time he and Mrs. Vincent are in California for Mrs. Vincent's health. He was for many years pastor of the Union Church at Upper Mt. Clair, New Jersey. The Vincents have been greatly interested in the Evarts Church and other work of the Congregational Christian Church in the Southeast for many years.

—Mrs. N. B. Smith, reporter

On Jan. 27 the Men's Fellowship of the **Daisy Church** was entertained with a buffet supper at the home of Dwight Sanders. There were twelve members present and projects for the year were discussed. First project is to start a Teen-age Recreation Center in the Cabin, and all equipment has now been received. Plans are being made for a gala Opening Day soon.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Sunday School Teachers and Officers was held Feb. 8 at the home of Mrs. Claude Pendergrass. The need of additional Sunday School rooms was decided to be our most pressing problem, and Dwight Sanders was named to present this to the Board at their next meeting. Twelve officers and teachers were present.

Feb. 11 was the 32nd Anniversary of the Guild of the church, and their regular meeting was held at the Town and Country Restaurant in nearby Chattanooga. Mrs. Paul Davenport was in charge of the program and Mrs. Beulah Davies was soloist. Twenty-seven members were present.

The Junior Dept. had a Valentine Party at the home of their teacher, Mrs. Claude Pendergrass on Feb. 12. Each child brought a love offering to the party, and with this money a box of candy was purchased for a shut-in child of this same age group. There were 16 present.

Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, reporter

Sunday School Workers' Council

The twelfth meeting of the Sunday School Workers' Council of South Georgia met at the Ambrose Christian Church on Jan. 8. More people representing more churches were present at this meeting, and all gave thanks to the Ambrose Church for a wonderful meal and fellowship hour preceding the meeting.

The main topic of discussion was on the merits of the 6-point grading system, used in many of our Sunday Schools with excellent results. A system of comparison among the church schools of southeast Georgia area was developed by a committee from this meeting. We feel the need of some tangible record of the progress and activity of our church schools. Of course we all realize that lessons learned and habits formed in our church schools' activities only "pay off" in the later years of our children's lives, and that the spiritual values set in our church schools are the most profound part of this phase of their education. There is no way to adequately "grade" this spirit of the church schools' influence and the Workers' Council does not attempt to do so, but rather to bring into focus the "truth" of our schools so that we may educate "in spirit and in truth."

The Workers' Council was born into the mind and soul of Mr. Green Sumner, of our Vanceville Church, early in 1951. As newly elected Superintendent of the Church School there, he was very conscious of the inadequacies of church school officers and teachers, not only in his own church community but also in other churches. Willingness to serve is the first step, but that alone does not make an effective servant. Recognizing a need is the first step in accomplishing a deed, so Mr. Sumner talked this over with the Rev. W. C. Carpenter and the Rev. Henry Abbott and others. They decided to invite lay members and pastors of the eleven southeast Georgia churches to Vanceville to organize a Workers' Council with the specific aim to share ideas and plans. In each meeting some theme has been carried out to strengthen our church schools. Many films have been shown, lectures given, roundtable and panel discussions held. From all these meetings, many things have been accomplished. Developing the "awareness" of the needs of a church school, reducing the sense of futility many teachers experience, and developing the bond of love and fellowship among our churches and their pastors is to name but a few.

At our meeting on March 20, 1953, the Rev. Earl Hand led us in a memorial service to our late chairman and founder, Mr. Green Sumner.

Some men leave a few lines of poetry; others a picture or a musical composition; and still others leave a memory of a Christian life. But to us Green Sumner left the Workers' Council, an organization of Christian men and women dedicated to make our church schools a forceful and active part of each of our church communities.

The spirit of cooperation, love and complete good-will among our churches and their pastors is a thing to be admired and cherished. The fellowship supper which precedes the actual meeting is a festive and joyous occasion.

The next Workers' Council will be held at Vanceville, near Tifton, in March. Won't you plan to join us there?

—Mrs. W. L. Watson, Secretary

It Must Be Used

There is a universal law enfolding us all to the effect that power can be retained only by use.

To use is to keep. To fail to use is to lose. If your muscles are idle they will grow flabby and soft. If you fail to translate high emotions into actual behavior the emotions will fade and die.

There is no guarantee for the maintenance of exalted moods unless they are transmuted into action. This is the tragedy of tragedies—to have and to lose through disuse.

THE STEEP ASCENT

Lent is for Christians the major season of spiritual renewal. For this Lenten Season we explore, through a series of messages by the REV. ROBBINS WOLCOTT BARSTOW, the pattern of Christian experience, in the company of those who would climb the steep ascent of heaven.

Personal Preparation

In the realm of the spirit, the richest blessings do not come by accident. There must be desire, and receptivity, and active seeking. Perhaps the most devastating indictment of the present mood of many people is that they have lost all sense of proportionate values. They are after the wrong things, that cannot satisfy the soul but only stifle it. Lent is the time when we all are moved to think more wisely of the meaning of life, and prepare ourselves for the inward illumination God is eager to grant us through Christ.

God's Invitation

One of the best things about our Christian faith is the fact that it is not something we have to conjure up or labor over. The initiative has always been with God. He created us with a disposition to seek Him. Despite the repulses of countless individuals and whole generations, His unwearying love still awaits our response. He who would most richly live need only open his heart to God, the eternal inviter to the feast of spiritual fellowship, Christ Jesus being his messenger and the guide into his presence.

The Acknowledgment

Sometimes it is rank sin, sometimes it is false pride, sometimes it is mere indifference that keeps people away from the fullness of Christian experience. But we cannot have our sins forgiven until we acknowledge them and put them away. We cannot have our pride dissolved until we recognize our littleness in the light of God's great love. We cannot rise above indifference and callousness until we really want to enter into the light and joy and peace that are characteristic of true Christians. Humility is the first step along the upward way.

The Uplift

If the first step is humility, then as surely the next step is confidence. The testimony is overwhelming—that those who put themselves in the way of God's good plan find themselves borne along with it, like a canoe moving out from a stagnant pool into the strong current of a great river. All the rich imagery of the Old Testament, all the promises of Jesus, all the solidly based assurances of the Epistles encourage us to "come and see," to "Launch out into the deep," to discover for ourselves the satisfactions that Christ has for His followers.

—Robbins Wolcott Barstow
(From the Missions Council Church Calendar)

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Entered as Second Class

Our Christian World Mission

1953 Report - as it will appear in Year Book

ALABAMA CONFERENCE:		
Central Association	$ 376.	
Other Gifts	171.	$ 547.
East Association	3,281.	
Other Gifts	4,645.	7,926.
North Association	794.	
Other Gifts	422.	1,216.
South Ala.-NWFla. Asso.	367.	
Other Gifts	5.	372.
Individuals, incl. Woman's Gift		424.
		$10,485.
GEORGIA CONFERENCE:	$3,115.	
Other Gifts	2,256.	5,371.
Individuals, incl. Woman's Gift		234.
		$ 5,605.
KENTUCKY-TENN. CONF.	$3,983.	
Other Gifts	1,515.	5,498.
Individuals, incl. Woman's Gift		362.
		$ 5,860.
CHURCH BUILDING LOAN FUND		9,346
GRAND TOTAL		$31,299

During 1953 the Southeast Convention churches gain 779 members, but lost 1123, making a net loss for the year in membership of 344!

Of course some of the loss can be attributed to those churches which have had Every Member Canvasses and have revised their rolls. But it is not something we can be proud of!

The missionary giving per member, by associations is thus: Central Association .60 per member; East Association .90 per member; North Association .51 per member; South Ala.-Northwest Fla. Association .45 per member; Georgia Conference $1.24 per member; and Kentucky-Tennessee Conference $4 per member.

The Church Building Loan Fund total includes the giving from 60 churches. Exact amounts received from each church will be listed in the Year Book report.

National statistics on both membership and missionary giving may be of interest to you, as a comparison.

Last year American churches reporting showed a gain in giving of 8.9%. Ours gained only 6.4%. The average giving for missions of other churches (46 denominations) was $8.57—more than double the $3.37 which our denomination gave to Our Christian World Mission, and to support the denominational boards and agencies.

(National statistics taken from "Facts From the Field," published by the Missions Council.)

Book Shelf Suggestions

THE RECOVERY OF FAMILY LIFE, by Elton and Pauline Trueblood. 1953; 127 pp., $1.50. Any family which has struggled its convictions, amid conflicting opinions, both inside and outside its walls, will be heartened by this book. Family arguments as to rights and privileges, parent and child, husband and wife, are inescapable. In the chapter on "The Vocation of Married Women" and "Responsible Fatherhood," the sources of disillusionment and heartache in many a home are laid bare.

This would be a wonderful book for women's groups to discuss. The Truebloods give great importance and dignity to the role of the homemaker.

WHOM GOD HATH JOINED, by David R. Mace, 94 pp., $1.50; 1953. A new volume in the Westminster Pastoral Aid Series. For young husbands and wives, also engaged couples. Cast in the form of devotional material with scripture and Christian insights. Also uses the best modern scientific knowledge. Helpful manual for pastors.
(Order from Pilgrim Press).

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World Mission Audio Visuals

KOREAN VICTORY 28. min., col, sound, rental $8. A new film on mission work in Korea.

END TO DARKNESS 30 min., B&W, sound, rental $5. Shows life on an African Mission station.

WINGS TO THE WORD 30 min., B&W, sound, rental $8. Story of a young missionary who conquers the vast spaces of Brazil by using an airplane to carry on his work.

FROM FEAR TO FAITH 20 min., B&W, sound, rental $6. Story of native Christian in South Rhodesia and the difficulties he encounters in working among the people of his home village.

Bookings should be made through the Audio-Visual Dept., 287 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y., in advance and be sure to list alternate choices. Films must be returned the next day after use, by SPECIAL DELIVERY PARCEL POST. Any rented material held over by a user beyond the proper shipping date will be charged at one-half rental for each day held over.

SUMMER CAMPS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

(From page 6)

participate. To insure the best of programs, summer conference planning begins months in advance. Below is pictured such a planning session: John E. Pickens, Jr., Convention Chairman of Christian Education and Youth Work, checks a "daily camp schedule" with Earl Hand, Dean of the Waycross Family Camp, as Frank Barner of Waycross and Ralph Worley of Tifton look on. (Waycross Camp will be Aug. 15-21).